

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Arbitration for a switch fabric (e.g., an input-buffered switch fabric) is performed. The switch fabric has a set of ports. Each port from the set of ports is associated with its own set of links. The set of ports includes a first port and a second port. A link is selected from the set of links associated with the first port based on a weight value associated with each remaining link associated with a candidate packet and being from the set of links associated with the first port. A first penalty for a weight vector entity associated with the first port is determined by based on a weight value associated with each link from a first subset of links from the set of links for the first port. Each link from the first subset of links is not associated with a candidate packet.